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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Events Surrounding National Congress DATE DISTR. 30 October 1953

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1. The Organization Committee of the National Congress were opportunists who were eager to use the Congress as a means to get power. The Committee worked too rapidly and did not know enough about the delegates selected, with the result that the majority delegates were true nationalists and the Committee lost control of the Congress.
2. Delegates communicated with the leaders of the nationalist coalition for advice. The leaders were thus able to get the desired results from the Congress without participating.¹
3. Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and Binh Xuyen groups were tainted by their participation in the Congress. The coalition leaders preferred to disassociate themselves from the Congress; that is, Nguyen Ton Hoan remained in Hanoi during the session. Phan Huy Quat took this opportunity to spread the rumor that Hoan was arrested in Hanoi to intimidate the coalition supporters in the Congress.
4. The coalition was satisfied with the outcome of the Congress, and will support Bao Dai if he changes his mode of operation to cooperating with the true nationalists. Bao Dai must now make a choice between the true nationalists and the half-interested group now advising him. Should he follow his present course:
 - a. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) will overrun the country.
 - b. The coalition will be forced into the underground and become dependent upon the United States to help overthrow the DRV.
5. The coalition is not a group of extremists as represented by the press. They are willing to compromise and cooperate as long as the result is a true nationalist government.

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25X1 [redacted] Comment. The nationalist coalition is presumably the Mat Tran Dan
Chu Xa Hoi.

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